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AROUND THE NATION

Historic Cemetery Reopens After Mass Burial Discovered

SANTA FE SPRINGS, Calif.—A historic cemetery is open again for relatives hoping their loved ones' remains were not dug up and dumped in a new mass grave.

State Cemetery Board investigators last week dug into a dirt pile at the back of Paradise Memorial Park and found skull fragments, bones and coffin parts, said Raymond Giunta, the agency's executive officer.

Authorities allege the cemetery operators exhumed bodies so they could resell grave plots. The cemetery apparently had been "double-selling" plots since 1986, Giunta said.

The cemetery, run by the state board, reopened Friday, three days after being closed to allow investigators to seek clues to the number and identity of those whose graves were disturbed. Scores lined up at the cemetery office to go through confiscated burial records in hopes of finding which bodies had been disinterred.

"We paid for a plot of our own. If we wanted a mass grave, we would have had them cremated," said Kevin Hardiman of Prescott Valley, Ariz., who has five relatives at the cemetery.

At least 98 allegedly illegal burials had been identified, Giunta said. Some remains were too decomposed to identify or separate for private burial. He has said 200 discarded grave markers were found at the back of the 10-acre cemetery.

Watergate's Hunt Files for Bankruptcy

MIAMI—E. Howard Hunt, the ex-CIA operative and Watergate burglar who became a mystery novelist, has filed for protection from creditors under personal bankruptcy laws.

Hunt claimed \$234,000 in debts and \$147,182 in assets in the recent filing in federal Bankruptcy Court.

"It took me a long time to reach that juncture, but it finally had to be done," Hunt said.

His assets included half ownership in a 1989 Mercury with 90,000 miles plus. "Needs brakes and transmission," court papers said.

Hunt was one of five Watergate burglars caught inside Democratic National Headquarters in Washington in 1972. The burglary led to the downfall of the Nixon administration in 1974, and more than 2½ years in prison for Hunt.

Hunt complained that his Watergate fines and legal fees cost him dearly. However, in 1981 a jury in Miami awarded Hunt \$650,000 in a libel case he brought against the Liberty Lobby, a right-wing group that published an article falsely linking him to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Texas Valedictorian Suit Rejected

DALLAS—A Texas high school student's bid to block the award of top student to the co-valedictorian of their school was rejected by a federal judge who said, however, that the student could continue to pursue the case.

Holly Jones, 19, had sued the family of Veana Clay, 17, and the Snyder school district after Clay was named Snyder High School's top graduate and entitled to a tuition waiver for one year at a public college or university in Texas. Both women had been named co-valedictorians, but Clay's cumulative grade point average was about one-hundredth of a point better than that of Jones.

But Jones argued that Clay did not deserve the title because she had been at the school only three years against her four years.

Addenda

Three people who claim tobacco companies intentionally made cigarettes addictive can collect evidence while an appeals court decides whether the plaintiffs can represent all smokers, a federal judge in New Orleans ruled Friday. If the appeals court agrees, it would be the first nationwide class-action lawsuit against the tobacco industry.

Ben Maxstadt, 18, and Jesse Slater, 17, high school seniors who released 3,000 crickets as a prank during an end-of-the-year assembly, were banned from their high school graduation ceremony in Ravena, N.Y.

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